

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fishing line guide mechanism for guiding fishing line onto a spool of a spinning reel, the fishing line guide mechanism being adapted to be mounted to front ends  
5 of a first rotor arm and a second rotor arm so as to be pivotable between a line-guiding posture and a line-releasing posture and comprising:

a first bail support member and a second bail support member that are adapted to be respectively pivotably mounted to the front ends of the first rotor arm and the second rotor arm;

10 a fixed shaft one end of which is coupled to the first bail support member;

a fixed shaft cover that is fixedly attached to another end of the fixed shaft so as to be spaced apart from the first bail support member;

a line roller that is rotatively supported by the fixed shaft, the line roller having on its outer peripheral surface a guiding portion for guiding fishing line; and

15 a bail that is curved outward in the circumferential direction of the spool to guide the fishing line onto the line roller via the fixed shaft cover, one end of the bail being fixedly attached to the second bail support member, the fixed shaft cover and the bail being integrally formed from a metal such that the exteriors thereof are smoothly and continuously connected.

20 2. The fishing line guiding as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fixed shaft cover and the bail are made of a stainless steel alloy.

25 3. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fixed shaft is a metal component formed integrally with the fixed shaft cover as a one-piece unitary member.

30 4. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second bail support member is a metal component formed integrally with the bail as a one-piece unitary member.

5. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first bail support member includes a first engaged portion, and the fixed shaft includes a shaft portion and a first engaging portion that is formed at an end of the shaft portion and non-rotatably engages with the first engaged portion, the line roller being supported on an outer periphery of the shaft portion.

6. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in a claim 5, wherein the fixed shaft further includes a head portion that has a larger diameter than a diameter of the shaft portion; and

the fixed shaft cover includes a recessed portion and a through hole, the through hole being formed within the recessed portion and having a diameter smaller than that of the head portion, the shaft portion passing through the through hole, the head portion being accommodated in the recessed portion.

7. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 5, wherein the fixed shaft cover is formed separately from the fixed shaft, the fixed shaft includes a second engaging portion formed at least partially on an outer periphery of an end of the fixed shaft, and

the fixed shaft cover includes a second engaged portion that is formed at least partially on an end of the fixed shaft cover, the second engaged portion being non-rotatably engaged with the second engaging portion.

8. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 7, wherein the second engaging portion is formed on the outer periphery of the fixed shaft, the fixed shaft cover includes a through hole, the shaft portion passing through the through hole, and the second engaged portion is formed on the inner periphery of the through hole.

9. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 7, wherein the fixed shaft further includes a head portion that has a larger diameter than a diameter of the shaft portion, the second engaging portion is formed on the outer periphery of the head portion,

the fixed shaft cover includes a recessed portion and a through hole that is formed within the recessed portion, the through hole having a diameter smaller than a diameter of the head portion, the shaft portion passing through the through hole, the head portion being accommodated in the recessed portion, and

5 the second engaged portion is formed on the inner periphery of the recessed portion.

10 10. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 7, wherein the second engaging portion and the second engaged portion are formed in non-circular shapes.

11. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fixed shaft cover is formed separately from the fixed shaft, and the fixed shaft cover portion has a bore portion into which an end of the fixed shaft  
15 is press fitted.

12. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixed shaft cover and the bail is formed by a manufacturing process that includes a forging process.  
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13. The fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bail and the fixed shaft cover are integrally formed as a one-piece unitary member by a manufacturing process that includes swaging of a metal member.

25 14. A method of manufacturing a fishing line guide mechanism for a spinning reel in which a fixed shaft cover and a bail that form the fishing line guide mechanism are integrally formed from a metal as a one-piece unitary member, the fishing line guide mechanism being adapted to be pivotably mounted to front ends of a first rotor arm and a second rotor arm of the spinning reel, the method of manufacturing a fishing line guide  
30 mechanism for a spinning reel comprising:

a base material providing process in which a metal base material that will become the fixed shaft cover and the bail is provided;

a metal forming process in which metal-forming is performed on at least one of a portion that will become the fixed shaft cover and a portion that will become the bail;

a first cutting process in which cutting is performed on at least the portion of the base material that will become the fixed shaft cover; and

5 a bending process in which bending is performed on at least a portion of the base material that will become the bail.

15. The method of manufacturing a fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 14, wherein

10 the metal forming process includes a forging process in which forging is performed.

16. The method of manufacturing a fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 15, wherein

15 the forging process is performed on both of the portions that will become the fixed shaft cover and the bail.

17. The method of manufacturing a fishing line guide mechanism as set forth in claim 14, further comprising

20 a barrel polishing in which dry barrel polishing is performed on at least one of the portion of the base material that will become the fixed shaft cover and the portion that will become the bail, the barrel polishing being performed after the bending process.

18. A spinning reel, comprising:

a handle;

25 a reel unit that rotatively supports the handle;

a rotor that is rotatively supported at a front of the reel unit, the rotor including a cylindrical portion, a fishing line guide mechanism, and first and second rotor arms that are disposed opposite one another at sides of the cylindrical portion; and

30 a spool that has fishing line wound around an outer peripheral surface thereof, and is disposed at a front of the rotor so as to be shiftable back and forth;

the fishing line guide mechanism being for guiding the fishing line to the spool and mounted to front ends of the first rotor arm and the second rotor arm so as to be pivotable

between a line-guiding posture and a line-releasing posture, the fishing line guide mechanism including

a first bail support member and a second bail support member that are respectively pivotably mounted to the front ends of the first rotor arm and the second rotor arm,

a fixed shaft one end of which is coupled to the first bail support member, a fixed shaft cover that is fixedly attached to another end of the fixed shaft so as to be spaced apart from the first bail support member;

a line roller that is rotatively supported by the fixed shaft, the line roller having on its outer peripheral surface a guiding portion for guiding fishing line; and

a bail that is curved outward in the circumferential direction of the spool to guide the fishing line onto the line roller via the fixed shaft cover, one end of the bail being fixedly attached to the second bail support member, the fixed shaft cover and the bail being integrally formed from a metal such that the exteriors thereof are smoothly and continuously connected.

19. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18, wherein the fixed shaft cover and the bail are made of a stainless steel alloy.

20. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18, wherein the fixed shaft is a metal component formed integrally with the fixed shaft cover as a one-piece unitary member.

21. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18, wherein the second bail support member is a metal component formed integrally with the bail as a one-piece unitary member.

22. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first bail support member includes a first engaged portion, and

the fixed shaft includes a shaft portion and a first engaging portion that is formed at an end of the shaft portion and non-rotatably engages with the first engaged portion, the line roller being supported on an outer periphery of the shaft portion.

5           23.     The spinning reel as set forth in claim 22, wherein  
the fixed shaft cover is formed separately from the fixed shaft,  
the fixed shaft includes a second engaging portion formed at least partially on an  
outer periphery of an end of the fixed shaft, and  
the fixed shaft cover includes a second engaged portion that is formed at least  
10 partially on an end of the fixed shaft cover, the second engaged portion being non-  
rotatably engaged with the second engaging portion.

          24.     The spinning reel as set forth in a claim 22, wherein  
the fixed shaft further includes a head portion that has a larger diameter than a  
15 diameter of the shaft portion; and  
the fixed shaft cover includes a recessed portion and a through hole, the through  
hole being formed within the recessed portion and having a diameter smaller than that of  
the head portion, the shaft portion passing through the through hole, the head portion  
being accommodated in the recessed portion.

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          25.     The spinning reel as set forth in claim 23, wherein  
the second engaging portion is formed on the outer periphery of the fixed shaft,  
the fixed shaft cover includes a through hole, the shaft portion passing through the  
through hole, and  
25 the second engaged portion is formed on the inner periphery of the through hole.

          26.     The spinning reel as set forth in claim 23, wherein  
the fixed shaft further includes a head portion that has a larger diameter than a  
diameter of the shaft portion,  
30 the second engaging portion is formed on the outer periphery of the head portion,  
the fixed shaft cover includes a recessed portion and a through hole that is formed  
within the recessed portion, the through hole having a diameter smaller than a diameter of

the head portion, the shaft portion passing through the through hole, the head portion being accommodated in the recessed portion, and

the second engaged portion is formed on the inner periphery of the recessed portion.

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27. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 23, wherein

the second engaging portion and the second engaged portion are formed in non-circular shapes.

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28. The spinning reel as set forth in claim 18, wherein

the fixed shaft cover is formed separately from the fixed shaft,

the fixed shaft cover portion has a bore portion into which an end of the fixed shaft is press fitted.